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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Week Ending May 21, 2006

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This report can be found on the Internet at

http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp

Good Week for Field Work: The rain was persistent throughout most of the week, hindering field work for farmers. Crop conditions are doing fairly well but some crops are showing poor color. Hay cutting was delayed for the better part of the week. Even though temperatures have been lower than normal, apples, peaches, and other fruit are progressing splendidly. Now that the precipitation has fallen, farmers are hoping for warm weather to help crops germinate. Overall, 2 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included finishing spring plowing, hauling and spreading manure and lime, spraying pesticides and herbicides, repairing equipment, cutting hay, planting corn, soybeans, and potatoes.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending May 21, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	5	76	19

Crops: Spring plowing is nearing completion at 96 percent, ahead of the 5-year average by 8 percent. Planting for the corn crop is at 82 percent completion, 1 percent behind of last year's pace. The corn is now rapidly emerging at 54 percent, well ahead last year and the 5-year average. The corn conditions have been reported as 63 percent either in good or excellent condition. Soybean planting is at 42 percent, slightly ahead of the 5-year average of 36 percent. Eighty percent of the winter wheat crop is now heading, far above average. The wheat crop condition, which is doing well, was reported as 71 percent good or better. Oats are emerging nicely at 94 percent completion, 7 percent ahead of last year's pace. Sixty-two percent of the oat crop is in either good or excellent condition. Potato planting jumped to 78 percent completion, the same as the previous year at this time. Cutting for hay has recently begun as 25 percent of the first cutting for alfalfa is complete, 4 percent ahead of the 5-year average. The quality of hay made at this point in time was reported as 5 percent poor, 35 percent fair, 30 percent good, and 30 percent excellent.

All fruits for Pennsylvania are now considered to be in full bloom. Peach and apple conditions are great as 89 percent of peaches and 98 percent of apples were reported as good or excellent.

Livestock: The rain helped most pastures as more grass grows in height and green color. Most livestock have been put into pastures. The ground is soft, but not muddy, unlike the hard, dry ground conditions we faced last week. This week's pasture conditions are the following: 2 percent very poor, 12 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 53 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

U.S. as of May 16, 2006: Farther east, cool, showery conditions developed after mid-week across the Midwest and Northeast.

Midwestern fieldwork delays were most pronounced east of the Mississippi River, but chilly weather slowed corn and soybean emergence throughout the region. Intense rainfall (as much as 4 to 12 inches) fell across southern New England on May 13-14.

A weather system remained constant over the Nation's mid section through much of the week, generating persistent rainfall and below-normal temperatures across the Corn Belt, Ohio River Valley, Mississippi Delta, and Southeast. Fieldwork was limited throughout the region.

Corn: Eighty-five percent of the crop had been planted, 3 percentage points behind last year but 8 points ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in most States. Emergence advanced to 44 percent, compared with 39 percent last year and 40 percent for the 5-year average.

Soybeans: Growers had planted 33 percent of their acreage, 10 points behind last year and 2 points behind normal. Nine percent of the acreage had emerged, 1 point behind last year and the 5-year average. Emergence was well ahead of normal in the Mississippi Delta as a result of the rapid planting pace but generally trailed behind the normal pace in the Corn Belt and Great Plains.

Winter Wheat: The crop was at or beyond the heading stage on 62 percent of the acreage, compared with 55 percent for last year and the 5-year average. Progress was at or ahead of normal in most states. Condition of the crop improved slightly with rainfall in the Great Plains and Corn Belt.

Small Grains: Spring wheat seeding was 79 percent complete, 9 points behind last year but 7 points ahead of normal. The week finished near or ahead of normal in all States. Forty-six percent of the crop had emerged, compared with 53 percent last year and 42 percent for the 5-year average.

Barley growers had planted 78 percent of their crop, 4 points behind last year but 7 points ahead of the 5-year average. Emergence advanced to 36 percent, 10 points behind last year and 5 points behind normal.

Ninety-four percent of the Nation's oat crop had been planted, compared with 95 percent last year and 88 percent for the 5-year average. Planting reached completion in Iowa and Nebraska and neared completion in Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Emergence, at 77 percent, was 1 point ahead of last year and 8 points ahead of normal. Progress was at or ahead of normal in all states.

Weather Data For Week Ending May 21, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - May 21, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	65	40	53	-6	1.82	7	5.75	0.27	25	240	76	633
Franklin	70	42	54	-4	1.42	7	6.49	0.48	24	219	56	651
Meadville	68	39	52	-5	1.66	7	5.26	-0.52	22	225	89	633
Mercer	70	43	52	-6	2.52	6	7.39	1.58	24	208	38	628
Springboro	68	42	52	-7	4.05	7	8.99	3.74	25	172	-3	552
Warren	68	41	53	-5	1.58	7	6.39	0.28	24	187	35	590
North Central												
Bradford Region	63	40	50	-4	0.87	6	5.18	-0.78	24	122	28	476
Emporium	68	36	53	-3	0.89	6	5.94	-0.38	24	162	52	591
Kane	66	33	50	-4	1.01	6	5.33	-0.97	20	73	-17	419
Laporte	62	40	50	-9	1.21	6	5.79	-0.10	21	140	-32	521
Lock Haven	71	38	54	-5	0.49	5	4.38	-1.12	20	244	49	699
Port Allegany	65	35	51	-5	0.95	5	4.60	-0.93	19	122	2	493
Renovo	70	38	54	-5	0.84	7	4.81	-0.69	22	237	42	686
Ridgway	66	42	51	-5	1.30	7	5.91	-0.41	24	118	8	510
Stevenson Dam	68	37	53	-3	0.61	6	4.41	-1.91	21	208	98	654
Towanda	69	38	54	-4	0.87	4	4.31	-0.90	17	193	16	606
Wellsboro	62	40	49	-5	0.76	6	4.85	0.38	20	115	19	480
Williamsport	71	37	55	-6	0.80	6	4.95	-0.81	20	293	47	750
Northeast												
Hawley	71	37	53	-4	1.48	6	8.01	1.91	18	143	23	524
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	69	39	54	-6	1.35	5	4.98	-0.40	17	285	73	721
Susquehanna	68	40	53	-3	0.94	7	5.86	-0.45	23	158	51	553
West Central												
Butler	71	40	53	-6	2.42	6	7.95	2.07	24	207	20	647
New Castle	72	44	55	-4	2.65	7	7.21	1.89	25	290	111	739
Slippery Rock	72	42	53	-5	2.84	6	7.65	2.12	26	236	77	675
Central												
Altoona/Blair	61	42	52	-9	0.71	4	3.55	-2.03	18	264	37	718
DuBois	66	40	50	-8	1.08	7	6.11	0.16	26	198	34	614
Lewistown	66	40	54	-7	0.37	4	4.82	-0.83	22	271	1	734
Middletown	69	45	57	-6	0.48	3	5.06	-1.04	18	398	86	878
Prince Gallitzi	63	35	49	-8	1.07	6	5.65	-1.78	24	140	-6	548
Selinsgrove	69	41	56	-5	0.75	4	5.60	-0.11	19	259	37	714
State College	63	42	52	-8	0.61	6	3.98	-1.30	20	289	80	750
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	71	39	56	-5	0.60	5	4.69	-1.69	21	338	78	802
Lehighton	70	38	55	-7	1.44	5	7.28	1.04	23	264	17	709
Matamoras	73	35	53	-6	0.87	5	6.68	-0.22	23	189	-14	597
Mt_Pocono	65	39	51	-4	1.31	7	8.86	1.68	22	152	63	543
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	70	43	53	-7	1.81	6	5.84	-0.22	23	354	123	824
Derry	65	40	52	-7	2.54	6	7.91	1.95	24	234	42	678
Myersdale	60	35	49	-10	2.01	6	7.08	0.19	26	84	-102	469
Mount Pleasant	69	38	53	-5	2.79	6	7.34	0.43	22	207	57	647
Pittsburgh Intl	69	43	54	-7	1.65	6	5.54	0.00	21	342	90	801
Connellsville	69	40	53	-9	2.60	7	8.71	2.04	29	307	42	767
Waynesburg	67	39	53	-7	2.17	6	5.64	-0.49	23	246	35	699
South Central												
Biglerville	68	42	55	-8	0.47	4	5.67	-0.21	22	331	20	808
Everett	63	36	51	-10	0.77	5	5.40	-0.45	23	167	-44	617
Hanover	71	41	56	-7	0.41	5	5.85	-0.03	25	317	6	788
Harrisburg_AP	69	43	57	-6	1.09	6	5.69	-0.41	21	379	61	859
South Mountain	63	39	51	-9	1.45	6	6.92	1.34	25	185	-35	625
York	71	42	56	-7	0.53	5	5.61	-0.46	23	321	0	786
Southeast												
Green Lane	73	43	57	-4	1.13	6	5.80	-0.68	21	336	95	804
Hamburg	70	39	56	-4	0.74	5	5.60	-1.52	23	360	168	826
West_Chester	75	36	56	-7	0.74	4	5.63	-1.17	20	298	-5	760
Lancaster	71	41	57	-5	0.68	5	5.81	-0.19	21	353	89	827
Neshaminy Falls	74	40	57	-5	2.08	5	7.01	-0.08	19	280	23	750
New Holland	71	46	58	-5	0.59	5	5.12	-0.88	21	358	94	828
Philadelphia	75	48	61	-4	1.14	4	5.85	-0.32	16	497	149	994
Philadelphia NE	75	45	60	-4	2.72	4	7.79	1.62	19	474	126	966
Reading	74	41	57	-5	0.23	5	5.03	-1.72	21	378	133	849
Valley Forge Na	74	38	57	-7	1.13	4	6.14	-0.46	19	345	12	817
Willow Grove	73	45	58	-4	1.58	5	5.57	-1.52	18	387	130	869

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some beneficial rainfall this week. Most days saw sunshine during the daytime and rainfall came overnight.

Field conditions are wet and kept most farmers out of the fields this week from planting crops due to the rainfall. Some haylage was chopped for the silo this week the last day or so.

Corn and soybeans are emerging now since the soil got some moisture. Wheat and barley crops are now growing also with some height. Hay crops continue to improve in height also. Apples and peaches are progressing also. Strawberries are being picked on plastic and regular strawberries are almost ready; just need some additional warm temps and sunshine.

Overall this was a nice week of weather conditions in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - A good soaker of a rain early in the week got the corn off to a good start. Almost all producers are done planting their early corn and now are awaiting harvest of barley to plant silage corn. Better than 50% of the beans have been planted so far. Cool weather and the late rains have helped the barley and wheat to grow and they now look like very respectable crops. Weather cleared for late week field work. First cutting of alfalfa has been better than expected. Still looks like a good year for fruit.

BERKS COUNTY, Theresa Tracey (FSA) - Good week because of intermittent rains for the planted crops but hay making has been delayed. Reports of alfalfa weevil in some fields. Corn planting is just about complete and soybean planting not far behind.

BUCKS COUNTY, Michael Fournier (EXT) - Showers all week kept most tractors in the shed. Orchard grass and alfalfa are near ready to cut but we need a string of dry days, and time for the top soil to dry out. Most soybeans are still in the bag, but should get planted in the next two weeks if the weather cooperates.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It rained everyday last week and was cold. Now that we received the needed moisture we could use some heat to get the crops germinated.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - Crops are emerged and hay is ready to cut; some first cutting and rye has been harvested. Rain for the week in my gauge for the week was less than 1/2 inch.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty - Corn doesn't have a good color. Hopefully warmer weather by the weekend will help.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, John O Yocum - Cool conditions causing corn to be yellow with slow growth.

CUMBERLANDCOUNTY, John Rowehl - Corn is pale; needs some sunshine and warm temps. Wheat leaves show yellow flecking, not sure if physiologic or pathogenic.

FAYETTE COUNTY, Don Fretts (EXT) - Over 3 inches of rain across most of the area, since May 11.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The wheat crop is headed out and appears to be an average crop. The rain as helped, but if things don't soon warm up the first crop of hay is going to be short and about half of last year's crop. If a frost shows, it's going to set back many of the fall and spring planted crops.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Timely rainfall last week. Somewhat variable from 3/4 up to 2 inches.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - At first, dry weather slowed the fast pace of planting crops, now the rain and cool weather is slowing things down a little. Some hay got washed after cutting last week resulting in poor condition for making hay. Some small grain lodged from winds. Conventional tilled fields had a little erosion. Transplanting of tobacco plants, planting corn and soybeans were some other activities taking place last week.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer - The field activities were limited as a result of daily showers that were needed. The plant growth is slowed due to the low overnight temperatures. The winter grains are looking very good. The corn has a very poor color. The alfalfa weevils are feeding extensively on some of the fields. Poor week for hay making; however, several farmers were wrapping hay in wet bales, no dry hay was made.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Chuck Shrump (NRCS) - Much needed rain will help the dry field conditions. Producers have told me that corn germination has been good, but there are concerns about the lack of sun and the cold weather slowing down the growth of the crop.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - Had over 2 inches of rain and cold temperatures this week. With rain every day almost no progress was made with field work. Planted crops now need some heat.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending May 21, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Spring plowing	96	95	88
Corn, planted	82	83	71
Corn, emerged	54	38	42
Corn average height, inches	4	0	0
Barley, heading or headed	97	84	86
Wheat, heading or headed	80	41	50
Oats, emerged	94	87	80
Soybeans, planted	42	60	36
Soybeans, emerged	7	14	12
Tobacco, transplanted	30	18	17
Potatoes, planted	78	78	71
Alfalfa, 1st cutting	25	25	21

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending May 21, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	1	5	31	48	15
Wheat	0	2	27	58	13
Oats	0	2	36	57	5
Soybeans	0	3	42	49	6
Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures stand	0	2	20	61	17
Timothy clover stand	1	4	28	57	10
Quality of hay made	0	5	35	30	30
Pasture	2	12	25	53	8
Peaches	0	2	9	48	41
Apples	0	0	2	50	48

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